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LB 149

change that to March 1, that's one month less that schools know about how to budget. Good budgeting is about having numbers as early as possible and being able to plug those in, you have now just taken away a month. Not only that, you now bump up against that rif date of April 1. And if you have schools not getting that amount of money till March 1, they may have already had their board meetings. As you know, they have to get those notices out by April 1, and so you really couldn't do this...I mean April 15. You really couldn't do this unless you changed that rif date. It just...it wouldn't work. And I don't know how serious Senator Brown is about this amendment, but that...those would be two things that would be negative and I don't know if she's going to vote on it, but that's why I would be voting red, is, one, you delay the amount of time that schools get the budgeting information that they need; and, two, you really bump them up against that April 15 rif date and, you know, that...that would have to be changed. I don't think either one of those would be positive. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator. Senator Stuhr, you're recognized on the Brown amendment.

SENATOR STUHR: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the Legislature. I rise in opposition to Senator Brown's amendment for many of the same reasons that Senator Bohlke stated. We are, in LB 149, changing the date to February 1, which would give more time for school administrators, school boards, and teachers then to recognize and plan for budgeting process. I did just also want to make a couple comments on LB 149 and the fact that we are looking at investing in the future of our state. We keep talking about funding. The students are our future. I believe Nebraskans are very proud of the quality education that they provide for our students. And if we look at some overall reasons on why does spending continually increase, I think that sometimes we forget that Nebraska is a very large state, it's very diversified. Our demograph...our demographics and the fact that some...some areas are requiring new schools, additional schools because of student increases, others are having to cut, and it's not that easy when you are losing students to immediately cut those funding and resources in one year. I think also there's been a lot of talk on the national level about student/teacher ratios. In Nebraska, we are proud